

DIGS FOR LIMESTONE DEPOSIT
Top soil scraped at De Pere area hill

Chipping away at Scray's Hill

ON SCRAY'S HILL near De Pere, men with machines and dynamite are chipping away part of the earth's ancient face.

They have opened a broad, craggy canyon 18 feet deep that extends over 80 acres of the hill's crest.

The excavation, however, is a by-product, not an objective of the quarrying operation that the Daanen-Janssen Co. of De Pere has been carrying on during the last five years.

The firm's 15-man crew is after the limestone which is part of the Niagara Escarpment formed nearly 400 millions years ago. The escarpment, which starts near Sturgeon Bay, runs south through the state. It is visible in the limestone outcroppings along Green Bay south of Sturgeon Bay and along part of the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago.

Alvin Peters, one of the quarry workers, said the limestone is blasted loose with dynamite. The charges are set at 18-foot depths, but Peters said the deposit is at least another 100 feet deep at Scray's Hill. The depth of the escarpment averages between 450 and 850 feet, but not all layers are limestone.

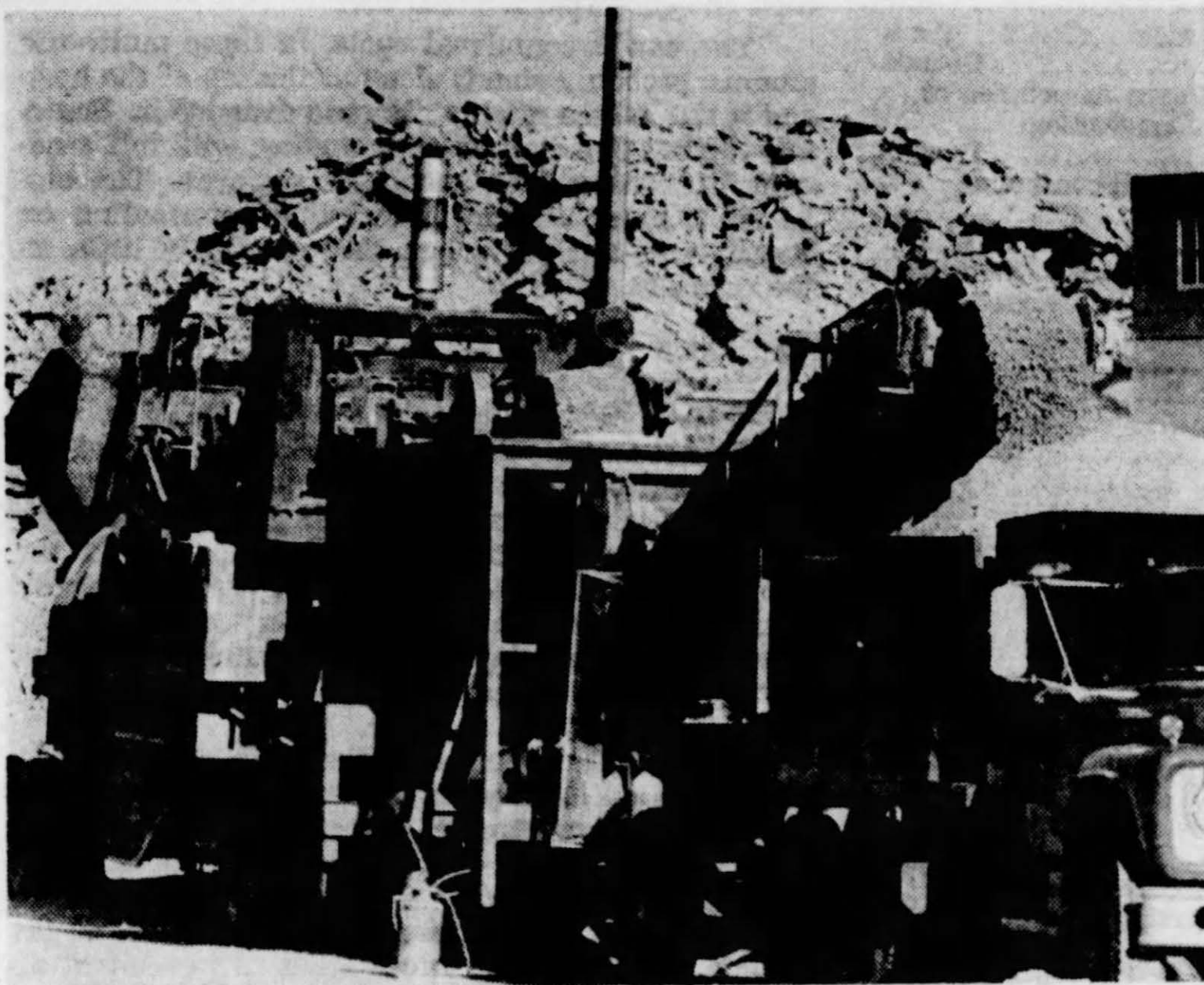
Before the operation begins, bulldozers scrape away about two feet of top soil that covers the deposit. The exposed limestone is then blasted into chunks that weigh between 300 and 400 pounds.

A huge power shovel scoops up the irregularly shaped rocks and empties them into a conveyor that carries them through two crushers. The crushers reduce the limestone to pellets about three-fourths of an inch in diameter. The crushed rock is used as a road building material.

Peters said the television and radio towers on the hill preclude the use of electrical primers in blasting. He said electricity from the towers might set off the charges prematurely when men are standing in the area to be blasted.

The hill, owned by Leo Scray, is one of the highest points overlooking Green Bay. Scray has quarried limestone on the hill on a limited basis for several years. Five years ago he leased the area to the Daanen-Janssen Co. for quarrying which is done the year around.

By
John Connor
Press-Gazette Staff Writer



Man-Made—Trees border the wall, top, of an 18-foot man-made canyon in quarrying operation at Scray's Hill. Bottom, a two-stage rock crusher reduces chunks of limestone weighing 300 to 400 pounds into pellets. Crews generally work from dawn to dusk in year-around operation. (P-G Photos by Ken Behrend)



CRUSHED LIMESTONE BECOMES MOUNTAINS OF PELLETS